

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 17-32 are pending. Claims 1-13 and 17-32 have been amended for clarity. Claim 1 has been limited to particular values for m, n, e and f. New Claims 28-30 find support in original Claim 1. New Claims 31 and 32 find support in original claims 11 and 15. Accordingly, the Applicants do not believe that any new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank Examiner Teller for the courteous and helpful discussion of March 25, 2004. It was suggested that the claim language be edited to remove redundancies and improve its clarity. The claims have now been so amended. The Examiner indicated that Claim 1 might be subject to a scope of enablement rejection, though Claims 2-9 would not. Claim 1 has been amended to reduce its scope. Accordingly, favorable consideration is now respectfully requested.

Restriction/Election

The Restriction Requirement has now been made FINAL. Claims 1-13, 17-19 and 21-22 as they read on SEQ ID NO: 2 have been indicated as being subject to examination. The Applicants understand that upon an indication of allowability for a generic claim that additional species will be examined.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 (and claims depending from Claims 1 and 2) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are moot in view of the amended claim language.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Benson, WO91/18015. The polypeptide of Benson is structurally different than those encompassed by the present claims. For example, the Benson polypeptides do not have the “B” amino acid residues (K, W, F, Y and Orn) between residues 35 and 51. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejection—35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Benson, WO91/18015. Benson does not render the present invention obvious, because it does not disclose or suggest substitutions between residues 35 and 51 with the “B” amino acid residues (K, W, F, Y and Orn). Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim(s) free of the prior art

The Applicants thank Examiner Teller for indicating that the subject matter of Claim 2 is free of the prior art.

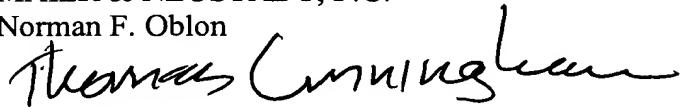
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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